

Meeting Minutes

COPC Environmental Justice & Health

Sub-Committee Meeting

September 25, 2007

COPC Office 1816 Main Street

In Attendance: Charles Walker, Kim Congi, Theresa McCabe, Jill Shuey and Melissa Brierley.

I. Welcome/ Introduction

Jill Shuey welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Melissa Brierley the new social work intern to the members who she had not yet met. Jill discussed that since several projects are up and running, there is no longer a need for the sub-committee to meet every month.

II. Updates

a. GreenLine

- Graffiti removal was added to the new fliers as well as longer hours of operation.
- Jill Shuey will follow up with Norma Higgs and Roger Spurback about promotion of graffiti removal.

b. Home Assessments

- Theresa McCabe discussed the success of the two summer student workers hired by COPC from Niagara University's Chemistry department that assisted the Niagara County Health Department Healthy Neighborhoods Program with air sampling. Also, it was discussed that there will be 51 students from Dr. McCourt's "Chemistry in Society" class that are required to complete two hours of service with the Healthy Neighborhoods Program. Theresa McCabe asked Jill to follow up with Mary McCourt regarding other details.
- Theresa explained that the air sampling was successful in that it could detect certain particles in the air. However, NU does not have enough technology to measure such small samples and as a result, cannot decipher exactly what the particles are. (Some examples of particles include smoke and pet dander which can increase incidences of Asthma.)
- It was also discussed that there is an interest from Theresa McCabe and the Niagara County Health Department in doing home assessments in trailer parks as well.

c. Urban Environment

- Jill Shuey and Melissa Brierley plan to begin working on the gathering of data concerning locations of vacant lots and illegal dumping in Niagara Falls. In doing so, Jill

and Melissa will be working with the block clubs and gathering data from Weed & Seed's neighborhood tours. Jill and Melissa will also follow up with Marge Giles and the Niagara Beautification Commission regarding data gathered as part of their March 15th "Reality Bus Tour."

- Jill designed a worksheet which was put out at the Freedom Trail Festival in which individuals could list areas where vacant lots were located or where illegal dumping occurred. If COPC partners have other addresses for vacant lots or places where illegal dumping is occurring, they should forward that information to Jill.

d. Other Updates

- Jill Shuey discussed the interest in passing out a survey to COPC partners to evaluate COPC.
- Jill also gave a progress update on the sustainability of COPC. COPC is quickly come to the end of year 2 of the grant.

III. Workshop Topics

- On September 12th, Charles Walker and Jill Shuey meet with April Davis of the Independent Health Foundation's Good for the Neighborhood program to discuss COPC providing workshops at their Niagara Falls events. This year the Good for the Neighborhood program is trying to promote individuals registering for a particular program topics range from exercise classes to parenting classes. Ms. Davis was willing to offer COPC an opportunity to provide a workshop an hour before their scheduled monthly events and to assist COPC with promoting environmental health workshops. April was also willing to assist with providing incentives for the workshop. Charles and Jill discussed at this meeting with April putting together a workshop around asthma that focuses on awareness, prevention and intervention. The workshop could be promoted to faith based groups as well as block clubs.
- Workshop topics listed in the COPC grant include lead poisoning, mold and mildew, asthma, smoking and second hand smoke, drinking water contamination, food safety and cardiac health.
- Current workshops offered by the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center include the Smoking Sensation workshop to assist area residents quit smoking.
- Kim Congi suggested a workshop for pediatricians on the importance of testing for lead in children.
- Places mentioned to hold workshops include the COPC office's conference room, the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, community centers, faith-based institutions, the NACC, boys and girls clubs, the Doris W. Jones Family Resource Building and Packard Court Community Center.
- The next step regarding workshops is for Jill Shuey to touch base with Charles Walker and NU faculty to determine interest in assisting to implement a COPC asthma workshop for the end of this semester.

Next Meeting: TBA

***Reminder-** There will be an all COPC sub-committee meeting early November. Date & time TBA.

Notes Submitted by: Melissa Brierley